



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

**CLASSICAL STUDIES**

**9274/43**

Paper 4 Greek Literature

**October/November 2023**

**1 hour 30 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:  
Answer questions from **one** section only.  
For each section, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

### Section A: Greek Tragedy

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 Read the passage and answer the question.

MEDEA: I will begin at the beginning. When you were sent  
 To master the fire-breathing bulls, yoke them, and sow  
 The deadly furrow, then I saved your life; and that  
 Every Greek who sailed with you in the Argo knows.  
 The serpent that kept watch over the Golden Fleece, 5  
 Coiled round it fold on fold, unsleeping – it was I  
 Who killed it, and so lit the torch of your success.  
 I willingly deceived my father; left my home;  
 With you I came to Iolcus by Mount Pelion,  
 Showing much love and little wisdom. There I put 10  
 King Pelias to the most horrible of deaths  
 By his own daughters' hands, and ruined his whole house.  
 And in return for this you have the wickedness  
 To turn me out, to get yourself another wife,  
 Even after I had borne you sons! If you had still 15  
 Been childless I could have pardoned you for hankering  
 After this new marriage. But respect for oaths has gone  
 To the wind. Do you, I wonder, think that the old gods  
 No longer rule? Or that new laws are now in force?  
 You must know you are guilty of perjury to me. 20

(Euripides, *Medea*)

Using this passage as a starting point, assess the importance of loyalty in Euripides' *Medea*. [20]

#### EITHER

- 2 To what extent do you think characters in tragedy are in control of their own lives? In your answer you should refer to **at least two** plays. [30]

#### OR

- 3 'We can sympathise with tragic heroes but that does not mean we admire them.' How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should refer to **at least two** plays. [30]

## Section B: Homeric Epic

Answer **Question 4** and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 4 Read the passage and answer the question.

'My child,' replied the Gatherer of the Clouds, 'what are you saying? Did you not plan all this yourself? Was it not your idea that Odysseus should return and take revenge on these men? As for Telemachus, use your own skill – you have the power – to bring him back to Ithaca safe and sound, and let the Suitors sail home again in their ship with nothing accomplished.' Zeus now turned to Hermes, his beloved son. 'Hermes,' he said, 'as you are our usual Messenger, convey our final decision to that Nymph of the plaited tresses. The long-enduring Odysseus must now set out for home. On the journey he shall have neither gods nor men to help him. He shall set out on a raft put together by his own hands, and on the twentieth day, after great hardship, reach Scherie, the rich country of the Phaeacians, who are close to the gods. They will take him to their hearts and treat him like a god. They will convey him by ship to his own land, giving him bronze, gold and woven materials in such quantities as he could never have won for himself.'

(Homer, *Odyssey* 5)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how far Odysseus is in control of his own fate in the *Odyssey*. [20]

## EITHER

- 5 Assess the importance of loyalty in the Homeric epics. In your answer you should discuss **both** the *Iliad* **and** the *Odyssey*. [30]

## OR

- 6 'The immortals are a distraction from the plot.' To what extent do you agree that gods and goddesses add nothing to the *Iliad*? [30]

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